

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 01249 01 OF 02 101834Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 043637

O P 100840Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2390 IMMEDIATE

INFO:RUESAB/ADDIS ABABA 151 PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 1249

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR PASSING INSTRUCTIONS)

DEPT PASS CINCEUR AND SECDEF AS INFO PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, YE, SA, JO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS USG AGREEMENT TO  
EMERGENCY DIRECT SALE OF US ARMS

REF: SANAA 1003, 1090, 1204  
JIFJA 2573

DHAHRAN FOR CHUSMTM

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR ISA

KUWMUT PASS ABU DHABI AND MUSCAT

1. SUMMARY: CITING MOUNTING LEVEL OF PDRY FRONTAL MILITARY  
ASSAULTS ALONG BORDER, YARG'S CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF EQUIP-  
MENT AND VIRTUAL EXHAUSTION OF AMMUNITION RESERVES,  
DISAPPOINTING SAG RESPONSES TO DATE TO YEMEN'S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANAA 01249 01 OF 02 101834Z

MEEDS, AND THREATENED RESIGNATION JULY 7 OF YARG'S

TWO MOST SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS, PRIMIN HAJRI ASKED USG CONSIDER ON URGENT BASIS SALE AND AIRLIFT OF MOST VITALLY NEEDED LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION. SAID THAT WITH HELP OF UAE, YARG PREPARED PAY FOR NEEDED ARMS. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF YARG REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIMIN HAJRI ASKED TO SEE ME JULY 7 ON HALF HOUR'S NOTICE. EXSUING 90 MINUTE CONVERSATION WAS THE ROUGHEST I HAVE EXPERIENCED SINCE ARRIVAL LAST DECEMBER.

3. LOOKING WORN AND SOMWHAT DESPERATE, PRIMIN SAID HAD EARLIER SAME MORNING BEEN CONFRONTED WITH THREATENED RESIGNATIONS OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF IRYANI AND DEPUTY CIC HAMDI. TWO COMMANDERS HAD REVIEWED EVOLUTION OF MILITARY SITUATION ALONG PFRY BORDER WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS AND PARTICULARLY LAST THREE DAYS. IN LATER PERIOD, PDRY HAD ESCALATED ITS ATTACKS SO THAT VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS FIREFIGHTS TAKING PLACE ALONG ENTIRE EASTERN SECTOR FROM HARIB TO KIRSH. YARG FORCES DAILY EXPENDITURE OF AMUNITION DURING PAST THREE DAYS HAD BEEN AT RATE OF 200,000 CARTRIDGES. (WE DOUBT ACCURACY YARG STATISTIC.) MILITARY COMMANDERS HAD REPORTED THAT VIRTUALLY LAST OF THEIR AMMUNITION RESERVES HAD BEEN ORDERED B FRONTIER. THEY SAID THEY PROCEEDING TO BORDER POSITIONS IN EFFORT ENSURE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF DWINDLING SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, WHEN THESE EXHAUSTED AND UNLESS PRESIDENT AND PRIMIN TOOK EFFECTIVE RESUPPLY ACTION, THEY COULD ACCEPT NO FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR NORTH YEMEN'S DEFENSES.

4. NOTING THAT DESPITE ALL YEMEN'S PLEAS TO USG, SAG AND OTHER FRIENDS, NO EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED EXCEPT SOME OBSOLESCEENT T-34 S, PRIMIN SPOKE WITH PARTICULAR BITTERNESS OF SAG REPLY ON EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. SAYING THIS WAS IN EFFECT NO REPLY, HAJRI DESCRIBED QUANTITY OF ARMS BEING  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 01249 01 OF 02 101834Z

OFFERED AS SUFFICIENT TO OUTFIT QTE ONE SHAIKH UNQTE. JORDAN HAD ADMITTEDLY SHOWN WILLINGNESS BE HELPFUL BUT ITS CAPACITY TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT WAS VERY LIMITED. IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION, YARG HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN, AND COULD NOT SAFELY TURN TO EGYPT OR LIBYA WITHOUT REVEALING ITS DEFENSELESSNESS AND THEREBY ENCOURAGING EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE PDRY ATTACK.

5. REMARKING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO HIS JUNE 17 DEMARCHE (SANAA 1090), HAJRI SAID YEMEN HAD PLACED FAITH IN PAQT ASSURANCES THAT USG WISHED YEMEN TO RECEIVE WHAT IT NEEDED TO DEFEND ITSELF. NOW IT WAS AGRAID THAT USG NOT PREPARED TO QTE BE SERIOUS UNQTE ABOUT YEMEN'S NEEDS. YARG, IN FACT, QTE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED UNQTE. IF WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO HELP EFFECTIVELY, WE SHOULD SAY SO. IF WE PREPARED HELP, WE SHOULD BE WILLING DO SO DIRECTLY.

6. I REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS SINCE VISIT OF SAUDI GENERAL QABBANI BARELY TWO MONTHS AGO, SAYING THAT WHILE YEMEN UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT NOTHING YET IN HAND TO BOLSTER DEFENSES AGAINST PDRY, MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THIS WAS IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE AS A RESULT OF US EFFORTS. SAG HAD PROVIDED AN EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT PACKAGE. WHILE THIS MIGHT NOT SEEM ADEQUATE YEMEN IN RELATION TO ITS OWN ESTIMATE OF NEEDS, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS TANGIBLE PROOF OF FRIENDS' WILLINGNESS TO HELP. IN LONGER TERM, WE REASONABLY ASSURED ON PROSPECTS FOR COMPLETE RE-EQUIPMENT AND RETRAINING OF YAR MILITARY FORCES. THESE WOULD BE LARGE AND COSTLY UNDERTAKINGS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULD NOT ACCEPT ACCUSATION THAT USG OR SAG NOT SERIOUS IN THEIR INTENTIONS ASSIST YAR MILITARYLY.

7. PRIMIN REPLIED THAT IF EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION NEEDED BY YAR DID NOT COME IMMEDIATELY, THERE MIGHT NOT BE A LONG TERM. AS OF PRESENT MOMENT, PDRO, AMPLY SUPPLIED BY USSR, IN POSITION OVERRUN BORDER DEFENSES AND OCCUPY LARGE SECTIONS OF COUNTRY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SANAA 01249 01 OF 02 101834Z

FROM BAB EL MANDAB STRAITS UP TIHAMA TO TAIZ AND NORTHWARD TO IBB AND DHAMAR. PINCERS MOVEMENT FROM BAYDA AREA IN EAST COULD EASILY COMPLETE THIS SEIZURE OF SOUTHERN ONE-THIRD OF COUNTRY.

8. PRIMIN REQUESTED THAT I ASK MY GOVERNMENT URGENTLY CONSIDER AIRLIFTING EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY INTO YEMEN OR, IF WE CONTINUE INSIST ON INDIRECT SUPPLY, INTO SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONWARD AIRLIFT. IN REPLY MY QUESTIONS, AND DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE OBSTACLES TO MAP, PRIMIN SAID (1) YARG HAD RECENTLY BEEN ASSURED BY ABU DHABI'S SHAIKH ZAYID THAT HE WOULD QTE SIGN THE CHECK UNQTE FOR WHATEVER ARMS YAR NEEDED FROM ANY SOURCE, CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCEUR OR SECDEF.

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NNN

MRN: 1973SANAA 001249 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MASS, US, YE, SA, JO  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC RUESAB/ ADDIS ABABA AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT LONDON TEHRAN DHAHRAN  
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